

California State Parks Native Americans

A Self-Guided Activity for Junior Rangers

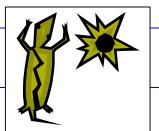
The history of the Native Americans who lived within the Santa Cruz Mountains goes back thousands of years. Their tribal name was Ohlone, possibly meaning Western People. We remember their culture through literature, ceremonies and storytelling. I magine California, as it may have been hundreds of years ago then grab a pencil or pen and begin this activity.

The Ohlone were a nomadic people. Traveling from place to place they followed the rhythms and seasons of the earth. Name some of the foods they might have eaten.

The children in the tribe often helped their parents gather and prepare food. How do you help your family at meal time?

Native Americans lived amongst the animals, often forming relationships called a clan. An animal name was chosen during childhood depicting the clan to which the person was a member. This animal was to be a lifelong friend and help-mate.

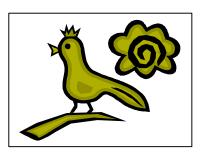
If you had a special animal to represent you what would it be?





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What characteristic of this animal most reminds you of yourself?

The Ohlone hunted animals taking only what they needed for food, clothing, bedding, shelter and tools. They watched the animal population carefully, so as not to overhunt one specific species. How would you hunt without modern weapons?
What use do you think storytelling had within the Ohlone culture?
What do you think our modern society can learn from the Native American culture?
The Ohlone tribes were destroyed because their culture was not understood or appreciated. How do you think you should treat people who are not exactly like you?

Congratulations! You have finished.

Take this completed activity back to the Park Headquarters or to your next Junior Ranger program to receive a stamp.